

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 1998 LB 1010

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Will, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This is an amendment that I filed this morning that should be on your desks. It is an amendment that reflects a bill that I've introduced. It has been introduced several times, has been advanced on at least one occasion from the Business and Labor Committee and what it would do is essentially make newspaper carriers available for workers' compensation if they are injured on the job. This is an issue that's been debated before on the floor, as well as in committee, and essentially the amendment would say that newspaper carriers are employees for purposes of workers' compensation, and I think...and the argument on the other side has been, no, they're contractors. Well, I'll tell you what, we're talking about kids for the most part here. We're talking about kids that are delivering papers and if they get injured on the job my philosophy at least is that they ought to be eligible for workers' comp. They are employees, as far as I can see, in every sense of the word. They ought to be...they're out there. They are, as I said, they're children. We're talking about children. They're children. They're out there working. They're doing what we, as a society, tell them they ought to do. They ought to go out there. They ought to get a job, make a living. They're out there, they are doing that, and if they are injured on the job they ought to be eligible for workers' comp and that's the essence of this amendment. And the fact is I don't see that there is a legitimate argument on the other side. I think that anyone that is out there that is doing a job, that is performing it as these people, mostly children, are, and they're doing it for a company, for a newspaper for the most part or for a company that distributes newspapers, they ought to be eligible to receive workers' compensation. They are not contractors in the strict sense of the word. Contractors is something that we use in very sophisticated business transactions involving things like construction. This is not that situation. These are essentially employees. And what my amendment would say is that these individuals delivering newspapers, if they are injured on the job, are eligible for workers' compensation. And I see no reason why that should not be the case and I believe that this amendment should be adopted to LB 1010 and I would ask your